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Diary
PAPERS
OF
SHAKERS
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OHIO
Union Village

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Mementos Experiences &c. May 14. 1858.

I have been closing shoes here in the shop alone most of the day and have been in my meditations mostly Engaged in religious ruminations. This seems of late to be the only labor allotted to me—and my mind seems arrested in its career of vain speculations, and made to dwell mostly in a channel of self discipline where the remaining feculence of my nature is perpetually tho' gradually being fanned away as the chaff of the summer threshing floor,—thro however much tribulation and continual prayer for strength to stand thro' every trial & not flinch in the hour of temptation. It seems however that tho' I am frequently & long left forsaken of Holy Spirits—yet I do not as was formerly the case yield to helpless hopeless despair but maintain usually a

degree of composure which is truly matter of gratitude to that
Divine Hand in whose power are all the issues of life &
Death & whose Wisdom & goodness, this it seem'd to my
anxious spirit, to wait long, yet at the right time enabled
me to stand in my present victory over those agonizing
scenes of Desperation. Still I daily & hourly groan for
the final adoption to wit — the perfect assimilation of my
whole spirit to the Divine will in all things — Selah.
May 15. Sat. I closed shoes and went over to Longstreth.
I have endeavord this day to hold myself in passive
acquiescence to the will of Heaven — letting the feelings
suffered to visit me be what they might and my
Bible lesson pointed forcibly to this direction — being
Isaiah ch. 40 v. 31. "But they that wait upon the Lord shall
renew their strength they shall mount up with wings
as Eagles they shall run & not be weary and they

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shall walk and not faint". This I certainly believe.
And the prophet Jeremiah also says that "It is good
to both hope and quietly wait for the salvation of God.
"Even so Lord for so it seemeth good in thy sight" &
Blessed is he who has learnd to wait patiently the
return of consolation when his spirit is visited by
the disconsolate state and comfort seems purposely
withdrawn for a season. For whoever can with-
out dismay or despair meet this trial must surely
arrive at that state which will be distinguished
by a crown of victory. This I am very anxious to
attain to as I fear no evil when I can receive
adversity & prosperity with equal composure & ac-
knowledge the Divine Love equally in Both—selah

17. Mon. I helpd wash. Thy Wisdom O God is unsearchable I cannot fathom the depths of it Thy Love & goodness are past finding out — I cannot comprehend them. I may ascribe everlasting mercy to thy name because out of all mine afflictions dost thou cause to spring up plentiful consolations & always y justifiest thy ways when thou visitest with sore afflictions, by afterwards drawing my soul towards the more powerfully by showing me the travel thereof and making me satisfied as it is this day. In morning lesson from the Bible were these words "But he Knoweth the way that I take — when he "hath tried me I shall come forth as Gold. "For God maketh my heart soft the Almighty "troubleth me" Job 23. XV & XVI. I know no more

how it is that the Lord hath this day made me to dwell in perpetual peace than how that he made his arrows of desolation and sorrow fall thick around me for several previous days — But so it is he hath wounded my heart & hath also healed it & blessed be his name. C. Let me at all times receive at the Lords hand all joy and also all sorrow for surely His Wisdom can dispense nothing but what is for my good — selah.

D. D. Sat. All day under great depression & in much sufferings physically and mentally — "O that one would hear me! Behold my desire is that the Almighty would answer me — & that mine adversary had written a Book." "For then would I entreat of him to hear my supplication speedily.

and the cause which I am not able to search
out would I order before him, & those ~~p~~ unique
mysteries I cannot reconcile would be unfold
to me — Nevertheless will commit my whole self
to his Keeping and all I have or am shall be in
everlasting devotion to his holy will. Therefore O God
let no adversary prevail against me but let me
triumph forever & forever over every grovelling influence
O draw my soul & I will rise speedily into thy holy
communion and enjoy the heavenly influence &
thy heavenly purity and gladly renounce and
hate all sensual attractions & earthly proclivities
For thy goodness purity and Love O God have
I chosen for my only & everlasting portion Selah.

June. 5. 1858.

Sat. Once more has come the closing day of the week & I am 7 days nearer my exit from this land of shadows. The Lord forsaketh me not this much of my time I walk the hills of desolation and make my abode for days & days in the Valley of the shadow of death. The Lord's hand however is not & never has been shortened that it could not save but I know he walketh with me in all my wanderings & I even walk thro the very Bottom of Jordan yet is the Angel of his presence there to Redeem my soul from the flood— Tho' I pass thro' the furnace 7 times hotter than it is wont to be yet the Angel of my deliverance Keeps a heavenly watch over my soul so that all the fiery darts of the adversary are quench Tho I should take the wings of the morning and fly

to the uttermost parts of the Earth there would the Lord be for my everlasting deliverance. O God I am thankful to extol thy mercy because it cometh in a good time & always favoreth those who are needy & poor in spirit, and those who wait upon thee shall renew their age as the stork and shall never be lost. May I henceforth learn the sublime discipline of absolute dependence upon thee for my every blessing & perpetual & uncomplaining resignation to all thy whole Providence Be the same dispensed as it may from hence forth even forever — Selah! This absolute and unconditional dependence upon God alone is surely all that can insure to man inviolable peace in this or any other life. —

July 11. Saturday. 1858.

I have during several months past been led thro' many trying and difficult & very dangerous places— Yet the kind care and protection of God has follow'd me closely thro' it all— And now I am able to affirm by actual experience that Order is everything in safe and swift travel and the only garantee for final success which can in any event be presumed upon. Without a conscientious regard to order, every thing is at once in jeopardy & destruction looms from a thousand points in our spiritual Horizon,— but with a due and sacred reference to this Heavenly principle we may without danger tread upon Scorpions

July 10th Saturday. 1858

and even handle forked lightnings without dismay.
Therefore O my soul hear thou the voice of inspiration
which is the sacred dictates of Order and walk in
the light and strength thereof, for of a truth if there
is safety peace & certain salvation, behold it is in
the sacred precincts of Good Order, & no danger
however threatening or sorrow however depressing
or temptation however fascinating but may be
met and safely passed over while we remain in
the safe ground of Good Order. O may I ever
remember this & keep me O God from the pre-
sumptuous sin of defiance of this good principle
& I fear not but I shall be thine forever more — Selah.

July 10th. 1858.

Saturday. P.M. Early. When I pennd the forgoing article it was early in the morning & soon after went to my work Presently I was visited with a most fearful feeling of sorrow and danger & very heavy trial which seemd to be an awful presentiment of some thing of this nature which is about to transpire. I note this to see if these impressions are given by prophetic spirits as a forewarning to me to prepare myself for the worst.

20. Sens. Well! The fearful warning was prophetic surely & during the last week or 10 days I have felt the awful effects thereof & am yet in the crucible of affliction & God only Knows what may be the final termination of it. However God has said, that no honest soul

July 20. Tuesday. 1858.

will ever be left to fall from the way of God, altho' Jerusalem should be surrounded by armies. This I believe – yet then what untold agonies the spirit may be left to pass ~~to~~ into order to fully purify it & assimilate it to God perfectly, no one can even conjecture. Yet O God of all goodness – save me from the devourer and O gather me once more into thy peace and protection, and O I promise to go no more out! Amen! I feel that my prayers and tears and cries to God for salvation and protection and my sincere Endeavors to keep good Order for a number of months past must and will avail me something in this dreadful time, ~~let it avail me what it may~~. Let come come what may. If I have not been honest, I never can be & therefore I will leave the event to God.

July 23. Friday. 1858.

While the fiery Ordeal is in fervent energy — and as to its termination I cannot as yet even hazard a conjecture. However I shall now commend my spirit to the free disposal of the Father of us all and be the consequences what they may which are ultimately to follow the present mutation of the Divine Providence — yet I am fully resolved to calmly face every exigency, & to endure every trial such mutation may develop — & then look calmly to God alone for final deliverance. In view of the consequences of such a sincere course I cannot doubt but the goodness and Love of a Merciful Father & Mother will see that a happy culmination of every difficulty & trial will in due time ensue and that of all those who sincerely come to the Father he will not in any wise cast out me. Selah! "What is bitter to bear may be sweet to remember"

July 23. Friday. 1858.

Evening— The dread guillotine of suspended state hangs over me by a hair. Yet my mind is in peace this evening because I am fill'd with a calm feeling of God's omnipresence & therefore must know, that let my lot be cast where it may; I cannot be estrang'd from his goodness, but his consolations are new every morning. How should we be troubl'd or why should we fear when we can continually know that a most Benevolent & Merciful Providence ceases not day nor night to overrule our every vicissitude & emphatically aims to conduct all to a happy culmination in a land of Blessedness where peace & tranquility know no change and ~~when~~ where all fear sorrow and danger are for ever banish'd to be succeeded by Love Eternal & a safety & immutability unknown to earthly scenes?!?!

1858.

July 25. Sabbath morning — Elder John this morning removed for the present all anxiety from my mind in regard to anything which at present might be apprehended to take place calculated to give me pain or uneasiness. So now being once more upon ground of assurance and peace I am resolved hereafter to be wise and be ready to my going — preparing myself from day to day to meet in complete resignation every dispensation of the Divine Providence of whatever name or nature. For now do Know that the Lord is omnipresent and ever mindful of all my necessities & will forever guard & protect me in obedience and sacred reverence to his holy Order.

August 2. Monday. 1858

In our yesterdays Chh. Meeting we had a precious gift to pray for rain – after which followed much sincere expression of faith and determination from a number of the Brethren and sisters. After Midnight it began to rain and has rain'd constantly ever since in answer to our prayers. And O let us duly appreciate this peculiar notice of God and improve our day & privilege accordingly. "Mercy is seasonable in time of affliction as "showers of rain in time of drouth" – and in humiliation and prayer will God abundantly bless and favor his holy people with peace & quietness.

Aug. 2. Mon. 1858.

I feel a gift this morning to entreat of God to lead me by the hand thro' this day's probation and make me able to possess my soul in complete resignation patience and confidence in the Divine disposal; Holy Father help me I pray - To walk this selfdenying way - I am thine I am thine I am thine forever. Thy watchful eye o'er me do keep Guide me o'er the rolling deep I am thine I am thine I am thine forever.

3. Tues. My prayer is at this time to the Omnipresent God whose sweet and heavenly presence I now sensibly experience, and whose benign influence sheds serenity and consolation upon every vicissitude of life, giving assurance & hope in sorrow & joy & peace in the hour of prosperity & peace.

August 3. Tues. 1858.

Now will I sincerely pray for a pure and devoted spirit, to the Universal scheme of Gods goodness and an entire & unreserv'd dependence upon the Divine Spirit for all my peace— & I really intend to wean my affections from earth and earthly things and centre them upon the Supreme Ruler of the Universe who alone is able to give to me unalterable peace. Away with all creaturely consolation which is evanescent as the frail creatures from whom it proceeds— But come O thou mighty & sustaining influence— then joy & peace in the holy spirit, which God alone is able to impart— selah!

Aug. 3. Tues. 1858.

"For the sorrows of Death compass'd me & the pains of
"Hell gat hold upon me - I found trouble and sorrow.
"Then I call'd upon the name of the Lord - O Lord I
"beseech thee deliver my soul" * * * * I was brot low &
"He help'd me. —— "Therefore "Return unto thy Rest O
"for the Lord hath dealt Bountifully with thee. For
"thou hast delivered my soul from death mine eyes
"from tears & my feet from falling — Therefore I will
"walk before the Lord in the Land of the living" selah
4. Wed. Well the hand of the Lord is upon me this
morning - stirring within me the lone words of encou
but this is also his Love and his guiding hand & tho
I cannot tell what a day may bring forth of conflict
and sore tribulation, yet I know that in my humiliation
"my judgement is taken away - Therefore unto the valley

August 4. Wed. 1858.

beautiful valley of humiliation wide I go & these in
calm resignation & patience will I wait the Lords
own good time for the return of his strength and
consolation. For doubtless if I could so apprehend it,
when I am weak then am I strong, and also in a
special manner is the Lord at such seasons perfecting
perfecting those things concerning me, in his own good
way which he Knows full well are alone sufficient
to answer the sublime purpose of that discipline
which must end in my salvation & final peace.
5. Thurs In the shop. On opening the Bible I fell
upon this saying — "But the end of all things is at hand
Be ye therefore sober and watch unto prayer" "And above
all things have fervent charity among yourselves — for
charity

August 5. Thurs. 1858.

shall cover the multitude of sins." First Peter ch. 4 v 7-8.

Evening. Another day is about spent and the work of assimilation to God and weaning from creatures goes on. And altho it is a work of consuming, yet I feel a constant accession of strength and and a mighty furtherance in true liberty wherein I abound more and more just in the proportion, that I am enabled thro the Divine influx to transfer my affections from creatures to the Creator. This is my present labor and fervent desire & may I never be discouraged not give over until I am able upon this subject to bring forth judgement unto victory — & gain a condition of Eternal independence

August 6. Fri. 1858.

Morning. I find in my lesson for this morning the following from David the sweet singer of Israel "The Lord will regard the prayer of the destitute & "not despise their prayer. This shall be written for the "generation to come & the people that shall be "created shall praise the Lord. Ch. 102. V. 17–18.—

So in sincere contrition I bow my soul to whatever mysterious probation the Lord may have in reserve to prove me with this day—only let me not meditate any presumption nor desperately rise in my feelings against any degree of sufferings which may seem needful in Heavens wisdom to afflict me with, but ~~s~~ let me remain in serene passiveness to all. selah.

August 7. Sat. 1858.

Another week is now about to close and of course I am 7 days nearer the End of my probationary state and all that remains for me to be interested in, is to try to hold myself more and more completely at the disposal of the Divine Will—To become more and more as clay in the hands of the potter and less active in my own will and inordinate affections. Thus I have walkd this week in a faithful manner and I know therein is alone to be practically demonstrated the perfect Law of Liberty and that precious spiritual condition which renders all outward conditions equally happy.

August 19. Tues. 1858.

After washing I proceeded to clean up round the washhouse which business I have been engaged in since. My resolution remains firm to follow after God close and I seem to abound more and more in that heavenly liberty which the truly devoted alone can ever experience and am encouraged to think that my spirit is gradually but evidently becoming more and more emancipated from that thraldom which an inordinate attachment to creatures necessarily imposes upon every one who is encumbered therewith; & I pray in sincerity that I may not give back nor be discouraged until in this warfare I have brot forth Judgement unto victory. For doubtless hereunto am I am called in Mercy.

1858.

Aug. 18 Wed. Eve. This day I made a shoe for H. O'connell. I have been blest and favored with a fruitful travel and general prosperity.—

19 Thurs. Morning. Cool—wind North and the weather autumnal and of course poetical to me. I am strongly reminded this morning to solemnly adjust my whole spirit & bend my best energies to waiting for the word of the Holy One and moving in silence accordingly. Let me seek carefully the stepping stones to heavenly peace and walk softly and cautiously before God that in the evening I may rest among the serene shadows of peace & justification

August 18. Wednsday. 1858. Pleasant & Autumnal. Evening. Well I have journey'd towards the final resting place as well as I could this day but quite late in the evening I came suddenly to a peice of ground whereon I met a very importunate Spirit from the lower regions but did not consent with him in the least—But O that I could at all times say with the holy Savior "Henceforth the Wicked One comes but findeth nothing in me" But O Lord let all be done in thy own good time. Only that I stand in my lot—

September 9. Thursday. I have now finish'd my Orchard work for the present and once more will retire into my shop and serve there Lord there. Now I will enter into a labor to adjust

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my mind and spirit to all my surroundings, so that I may place myself in the proper condition for a fruitful travel in my most Holy calling. Let resignation's Holy wings Now hover my poor soul– And time and sense and earthly things Surrender their control– May God's good providence and Love Be all my meat and drink And on the scenes in Heaven above O let me ever think.

Sept 23. Fri. This evening I am very full of sorrow and desolation– very– My old agonies have been afflicting me sorely to day. Yet will I passively Submit my whole case to Gods Kind

Sept. 24. Fri. 1858.

wise and Benevolent Keeping and let my afflictions be what they may I will not resist ~~Heart~~ the hand of the Lord, tho it be very heavy & severe upon me— I will not cry out nor be discouraged— for I know he will not leave my soul in Hell nor suffer me to see corruption; for his mercy endureth forever & his righteousness unto all generations So O Lord I pray thee remit none of thy severe chastisements nor afflictions but let me have the full benefit of them all— for thou alone Knowest my necessities— & with thee alone are the issues of Life— Selah. Thy will O God not mine be done. Night— I experienced excruciating horrors in my dreams this night. May it be the Lords will experience the same never more.

Sept 25 Sat. 1858.

The Lord has sustaind thro all my trials and sore tribulation to day and blest be his name for he maketh me to bear patiently all his chastisement and has held me in the hollow of his Hand of protection. O that I could cast my whole burden upon him for then could I be at rest for a moment. Nevertheless not my my will but thine O God be done Forever— Selah.

Sept. 26. Mon. Have had a good day and been (ably remark) raisd above all my sorrows and agonies, blessed be Gods Holy Name. How long I may be permitted to enjoy this Blessed state I know not - but am still ready to say The Lord giveth and the Lord taketh away Blessed be the Name of the Lord. But O that my mind may be led in the way of everlasting purity & righteousness.

September 29. Wednesday. 1858. Warm and some smoky. Morning. Calm in my feelings. Feel there is a sacrafice ahead but feeable and willing to make it. Really desire to be entirely given up to do Gods will— Yet all good seems fluctuating in this rudimental sphere and all the disciplines of this life seems veiled in inscrutable mystery and it may be that before two hours I may be writhing in agonies of mind from which no escape may seem evitable. O let me give my soul completely into the Hand of the Divine Beneficence and take no thot for the morrow, but to day "just good works on Board and wait the wind that shortly Blows me into lands unknown where at least I may procure an eternal exemption from physical infirmities, & be gradually unfolded

in the whole nature of universal Love which must of necessity cast out all fear and in some way ~~in~~ tho' now incomprehensible to me, bring in the days of everlasting peace. Selah — Thy will O God be done I find in my Bible lesson this morning the blessed words of Jesus "Come unto me all ye that are labor and are Heavy laden and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn of me for I am meek and lowly in heart and ye shall find rest unto your souls — For my yoke is easy & my burden is light." This is the spirit which I desire to possess — for in no other can the spirit approach the chain of everlasting atonement with God faster than in this. — selah.

September 29. Wed. 1858. Clear and warm——.

Noon. Still under the Divine disposal and laboring for true-perfect resignation to that disposal be it what it may—sorrow—joy—despair—sickness or whatever his goodness may see fit to exercise me in.

Evening. In the possession of justification and as much enjoyment of peace as my present state of suspense and uncertainty would seem to allow & even more. And altho the crisis seems approaching yet it is indefinitely delay'd and I cannot tell any thing of my future destiny—only that I am in the hands of a Heavenly Father and Mother without whose kind notice, no sparrow falls to the ground.—Selah!

September 30. Thurs. 1858. Very warm and dry very
Still O God my prayer shall be to thee and my
supplication unto the Holy one of Israel to hold
my spirit in the hollow of thine hand that no evil
may overcome me. Give me this day my daily Bread.
And forgive me all my trespasses as I am willing to
forgive all those who trespass against me. For thine
is the Kingdom and the power and the glory for=
ever. My Bible lesson was from Isaiah". As One
whom his Mother comforteth so will I comfort you
& ye shall be comforted in Jerusalem". Now I will
hunt for an Oracular passage to relieve my suspense.
"Ye have heard the Blasphemy what think Ye? And they
"all condemn'd him to be guilty of Death! Be it so Lord.

October 1. Friday. 1858. Shower in the night 3/4 inch fell

May this day renew my resolutions to utterly deny the flesh with all its affections and lusts & preferences and partialities and live in true sincere devotion to God's holy will and that alone. Bible Lesson. "Which when Jesus perceived he said unto them O ye of little faith why reason ye among yourselves because ye have no bread?

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